

REMARKS

The Office Action dated April 23, 2004 has been reviewed and carefully considered. Claim 9 has been redrafted into independent form. Claims 7-8 have been canceled, and claims 12-16 have been added. Claims 1-6, 9-11 and 12-16 are now pending, the independent claims being 1, 9 and 15. Claims 1, 10 and 11 have been amended. Reconsideration of the above-identified application, as amended and in view of the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3 and 5-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0007493 to Butler et al. ("Butler").

Claim 9, which has now been redrafted into independent form, recites:

A method of enhancing a television broadcast comprising the steps of preparing a plurality of broadcast signals, at least one of which being prepared for chroma keying, transmitting the plurality of broadcast signals to a receiver, the receiver applying chroma keying to the received signals to create a superimposed signal for display as an enhanced television broadcast, further comprising the step of processing one of said received broadcast signals according to instructions in the broadcast signal to prepare the signal for chroma keying.

The inventive technique is demonstrated by the drawing sequence FIGs. 2d-2f and accompanying text in the specification.

Although Butler discloses timing parameters in the broadcast signal that control the time at which a hyperlink page in the signal is rendered for display, these parameters or other control data cannot fairly be characterized as instructions in the broadcast signal "to prepare the signal for chroma keying." Butler fails to disclose or suggest the latter-quoted limitation of claim 9 of the present invention. Accordingly,

Butler fails to anticipate the invention as recited in claim 9. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 as amended recites:

A broadcast enhancement system backward-compatible with a television and a set-top-box that has a receiver for receiving a television broadcast signal, without any adaptation required to the set-top-box or the television, said system comprising a receiver for receiving a wireless transmission of an enhancement signal, the two receivers being arranged separately from each other, said system being further configured for enhancing the received television broadcast signal using the received enhancement signal, at least one of the two signals being prepared for chroma keying, the system also being configured to intercept the received television broadcast signal before it is passed to the television, to apply chroma keying to superimpose the enhancement signal onto the intercepted television broadcast signal and to pass the superimposed signal to the television.

Support for the amendment of claim 1 is found in the specification (e.g., page 5, lines 4-9; FIG. 1, ref. nos. 25, 30, 50 and accompanying text in the specification).

The Butler reference, by contrast, fails to disclose or suggest backward-compatibility. The thrust of Butler is to provide chroma-key processing at the receiver due to the advent of the receiver having a personal computer (PC) provided with the ability to receive and process television (TV) broadcast signals. Butler mentions that a PC may be configured to convert its VGA signals to a TV format for display on a TV. In addition, Butler says that data may be transmitted to the receiver along connections independent of the TV broadcast channel, and that the data and TV signals may utilize different respective transmission media. Butler nevertheless fails to disclose or suggest the instant “backward-compatible” invention, with “two receivers being arranged separately from each other,” as recited in claim 1 as amended:

A broadcast enhancement system backward-compatible with a television and a set-top-box that has a receiver for receiving a television broadcast signal, without any adaptation required to the set-top-box or the television, said system comprising a receiver for receiving a wireless transmission of an enhancement signal, the two receivers being arranged separately from each other, said system being further configured for enhancing the received television broadcast signal using the received enhancement signal, at least one of the two signals being prepared for chroma keying, the system also being configured to intercept the received television broadcast signal before it is passed to the television, to apply chroma keying to superimpose the enhancement signal onto the intercepted television broadcast signal and to pass the superimposed signal to the television.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Butler fails to anticipate the invention as recited in claim 1. Nor would it have been obvious to modify Butler to meet the limitations of claim 1.

Claim 4 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Butler.

Claim 4 depends from claim 1, and, at least due to this dependency, Butler is deemed to not render obvious dependent claim 4, for at least the reasons set forth above.

Claims 10 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Butler in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,700,588 to MacInnis et al. ("MacInnis").

Claim 10 depends from claim 1. The dependency of claim 11 has been updated from claim 7 to claim 9, due to claim 9 being redrafted into independent form. MacInnis relates a set-top-box-resident chip that performs chroma-key operations, but MacInnis cannot make up for the deficiencies in Butler with respect to claims 1 or 9.

Claims 10 and 11 are, for at least this reason, deemed not to be rendered obvious by the applied combination of references.

As to the other rejected claims, each depends from a base claim and is deemed to patentably distinguish over the applied reference(s) for at least the same reasons set forth above with regard to the base claim.

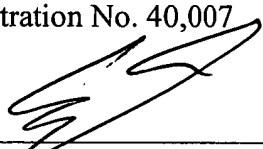
Claims 12-16 have been added to more particularly point out aspects of what the applicant regards to be the invention. Claims 12-14 find support in FIG. 1 and accompanying text in the specification. Claims 15 and 16 find support in the specification (e.g., page 5, lines 4-9; FIG. 1, ref. nos. 25, 30, 50 and accompanying text in the specification). Claim 15 distinguishes over the prior art of record for at least the reasons set forth above regarding claim 1. The other new claims each distinguish over the prior art at least due to their dependency.

For all the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all the present claims are patentable in view of the cited references. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 7/22/04

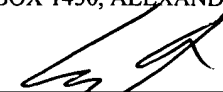

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